

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

25X1 SOURCE

ROUTING

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

ITEM NO:

03

DATE 16 APR 78

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SUBJECT: SOVIET AIRCRAFT LANDS ON ALASKAN ISLAND

A SOVIET AN-24 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT MADE A FORCED LANDING ON ST. LAURENCE ISLAND EARLY THIS MORNING DUE TO LACK OF FUEL. THE ISLAND LIES BETWEEN THE Seward AND CHUKOTSKIY PENINSULAS. THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WAS INFORMED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS ON AN ICE RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER THE BEARING SEA AND HAD SCIENTISTS ABOARD. THE SOVIETS ARE NOW PREPARING TO MAN ICE STATIONS IN THE ARCTIC AND THE AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS. THE ALASKAN AIR COMMAND IS PREPARING TO FLY IN FUEL TO ST. LAURENCE ISLAND TO ENABLE THE AIRCRAFT TO RETURN TO SOVIET TERRITORY.

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State Department review completed

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